



Welcome! We will get started momentarily.

- Using Chat, please enter your name and organization.
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 1. Click on the Chat icon.
 2. Select who you want to send your message to (individual or everyone).
 3. Type and send your message.
- Please use Chat to submit questions for our speakers.

Nursing Home Quality Essentials Spotlight: Infection Prevention

The Link Between Infection Prevention and Social Drivers of Health in Resident Care

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

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WE'RE BACK!

NURSING HOME QUALITY ESSENTIALS



SPOTLIGHT: INFECTION PREVENTION

Tuesdays & Thursdays | 11 a.m. MT / Noon CT

As part of a contract extension from CMS, we're thrilled to relaunch Nursing Home Quality Essentials, focusing on infection prevention and control!

Join us twice a week for engaging 30-minute sessions tailored for long-term care providers. Each session will spotlight a new aspect of infection prevention, with actionable insights and strategies to integrate directly into daily practices.

Topics may include vaccines, healthcare-acquired infections, rehospitalizations, NHSN reporting, health literacy and more — each aimed at enhancing your infection prevention efforts.

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or go to

www.telligenqiconnect.com/calendar



Vaccinate & Protect!

Telligen's [Adult Vaccine Toolkit](#) compiles practical resources for nursing homes in their efforts to improve vaccination rates.

Telligen's [Vax Hub](#) provides additional on-demand tools, resources, and learning modules.

Together, these resources empower facilities to safeguard our most vulnerable populations.



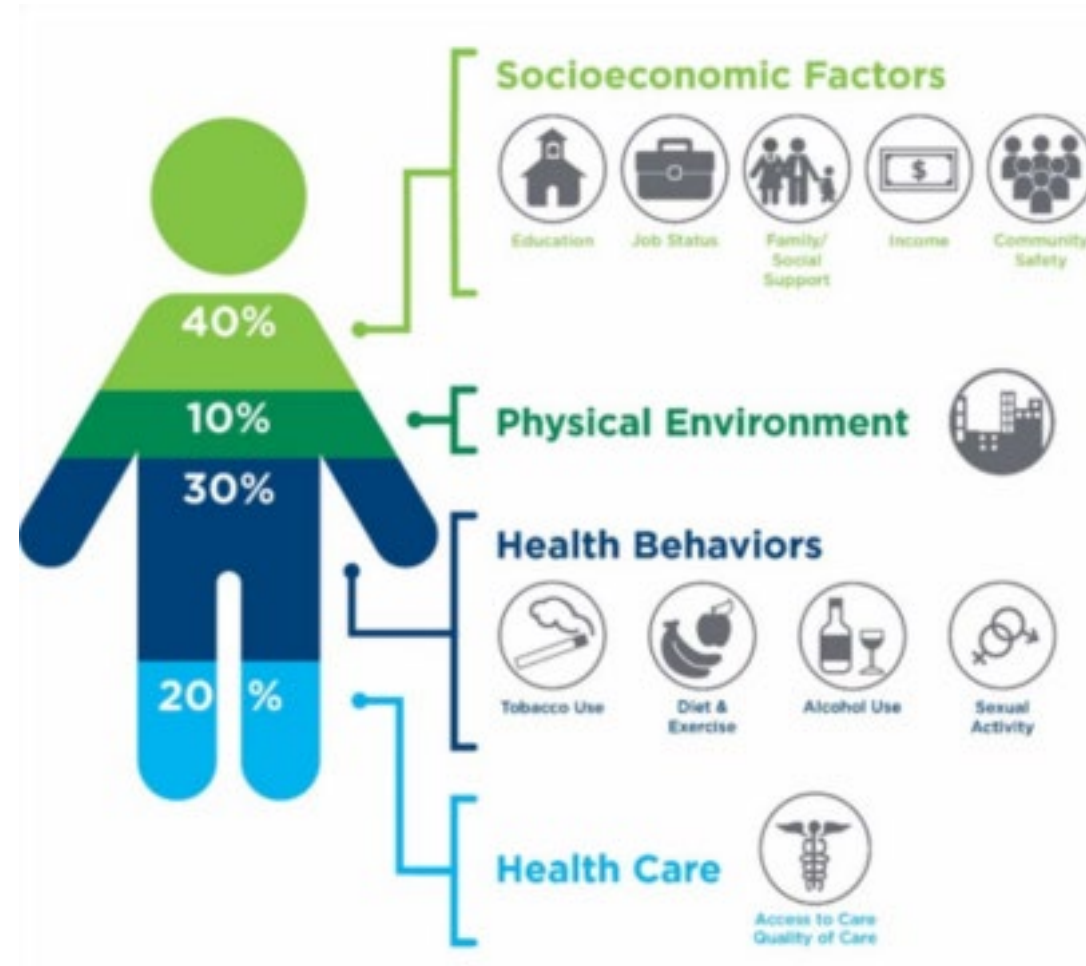
The Link Between Infection > Prevention and Social Drivers of Health in Resident Care

Objectives

- Define social drivers of health (SDOH) and health literacy
- Examine the relationship between of SDOH, COVID-19 and other infections
- Recognize the impact of low health literacy on resident care and vaccine uptake
- Discuss strategies to address low health literacy and build a collective responsibility in infection prevention

What are Social Drivers of Health?

- **Social drivers of health (SDOH)** are the circumstances in the environments where individuals are born, live, learn, work, play, worship and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning and quality-of-life outcomes and risks



Source: Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement, Going Beyond Clinical Walls; Solving Complex Problems (October 2014)

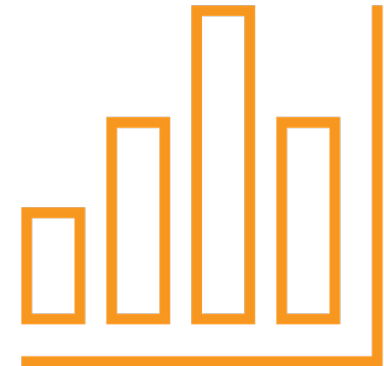
<https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health>

<https://nam.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Panel-3-speaker-3-Norwood.pdf>

National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) and SDOH

Why It Matters

- NHSN emphasizes the importance of **race, ethnicity, language and interpreter data** in addressing health disparities. Racial, ethnic and language barriers significantly impact health outcomes, including:
 - Hospital-acquired infections
 - Long-term care facilities
- Data collection enables analysis of sub-group differences in:
 - Infection risk
 - Vaccine uptake

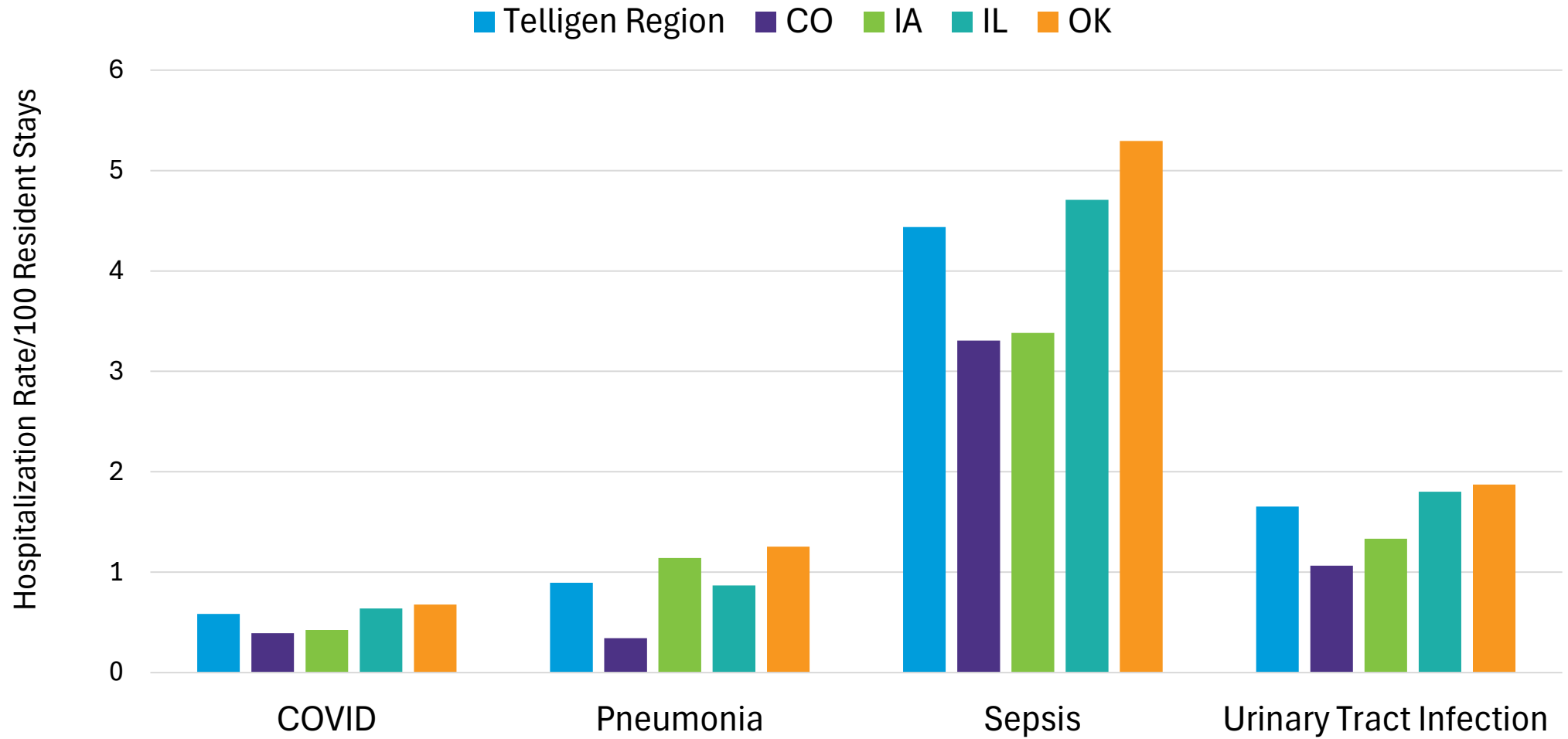


Question

Which of the following nursing home acquired infections has the highest rates of hospitalizations across Colorado, Iowa, Illinois and Oklahoma communities?

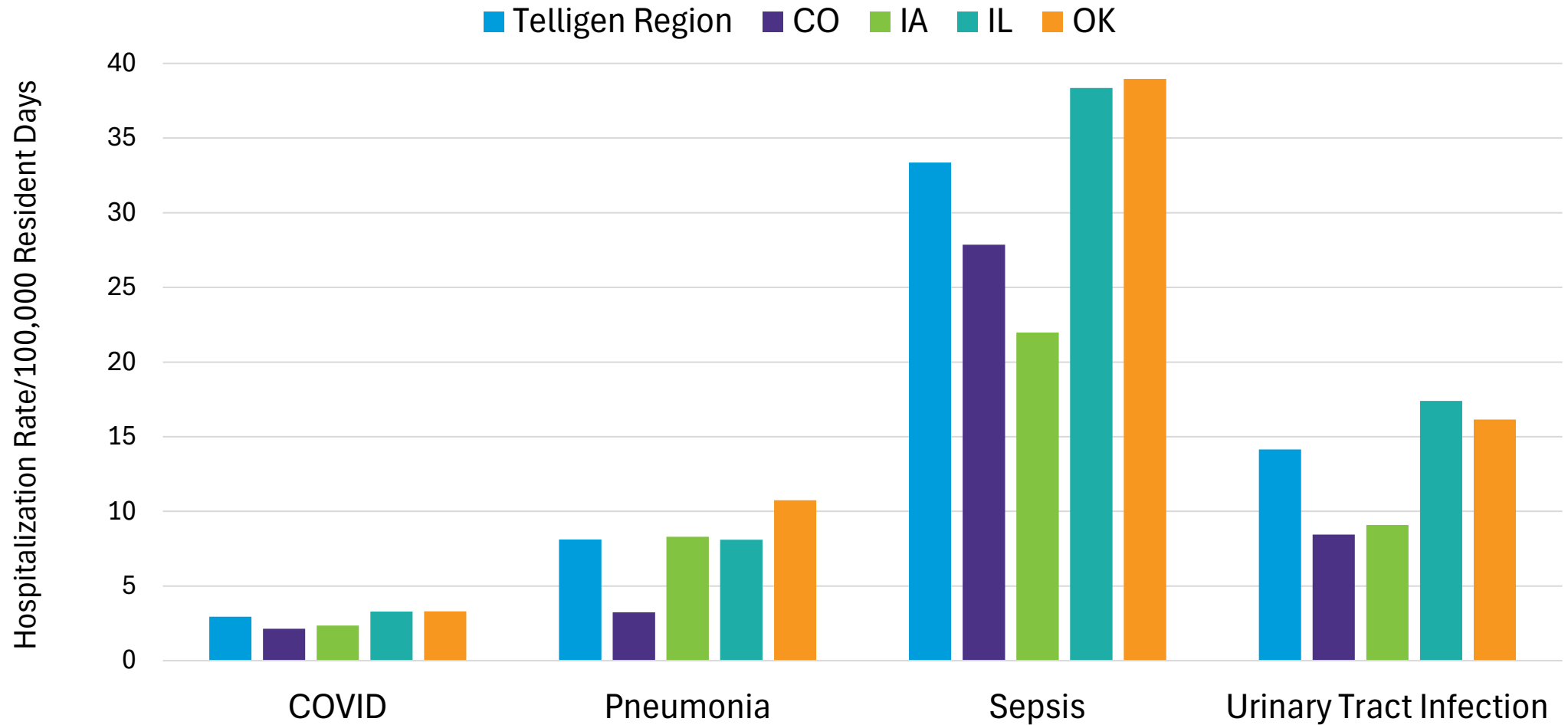
- A. Pneumonia
- B. Sepsis
- C. COVID-19
- D. UTI

Healthcare-Associated Infections Requiring Hospitalization Among Short Stay Nursing Home Residents May 2023 - April 2024



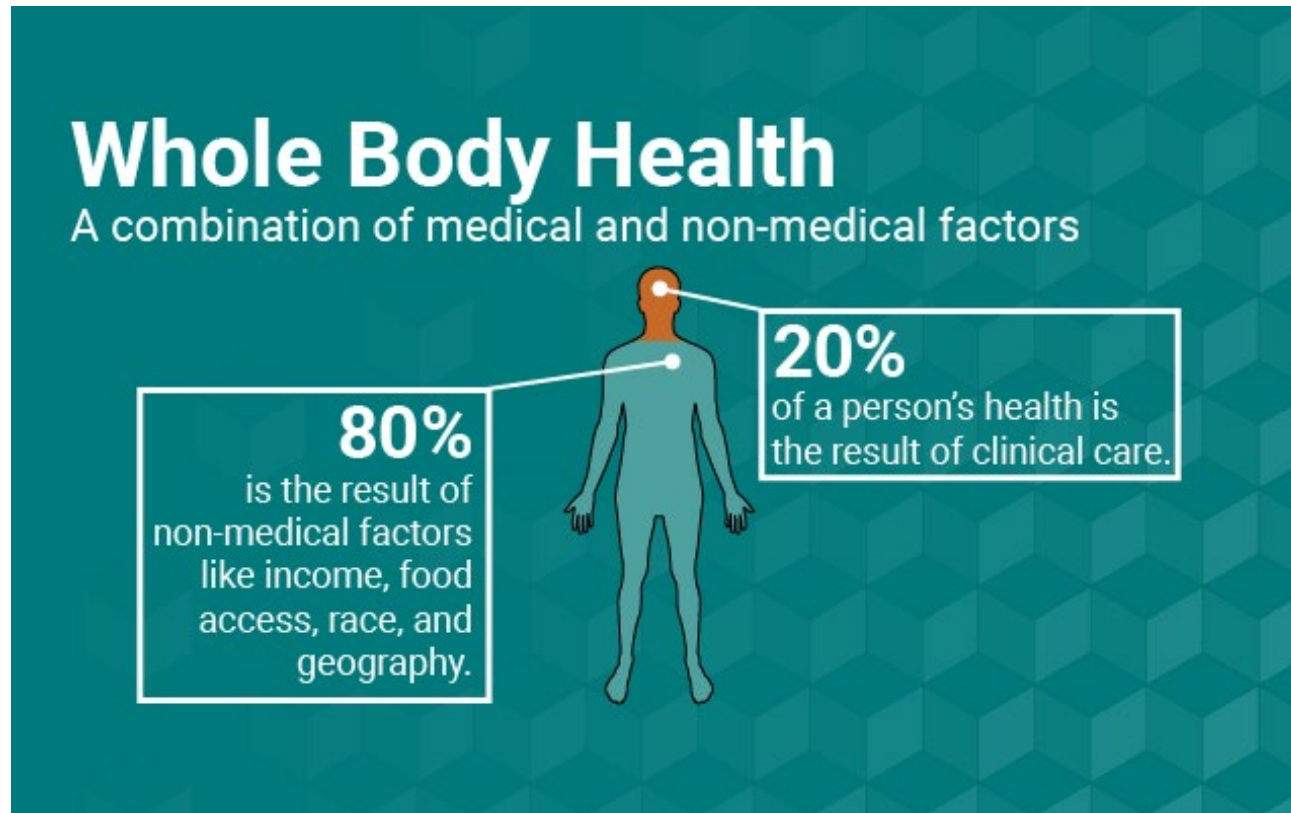
Data Source: Medicare FFS part-A claims data for nursing home residents.

Healthcare-Associated Infections Requiring Hospitalization Among Long Stay Nursing Home Residents May 2023 - April 2024



Data Source: Medicare FFS part-A claims data for nursing home residents.

Social Drivers of Health Impact on Infection Control



- Medical care
- Genetics
- Social drivers of health

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/e2b650cd64cf84aae8ff0fae7474af82/SDOH-Evidence-Review.pdf>

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5868637/>

Living Conditions and Environmental Factors

SDOH	Examples of the Impact in the Community	Examples of the Impact in the Nursing Home Setting
Housing and shared spaces	Homelessness, multi-generational households and overcrowding increases opportunity for transmission of respiratory infections (COVID-19, influenza)	Communal spaces, such as dining rooms and activity areas, increase opportunity for transmission of respiratory infections (COVID-19, influenza) and multi-drug resistant organisms (MRSA, <i>C-difficile</i>)
Sanitation	Lack of access to clean water Contributes to Cholera, Hepatitis A and parasitic diseases	Inadequate facility cleaning or lack of access to proper hygiene resources increase risk of outbreak
Air quality	Polluted environments can worsen respiratory infections	Poor ventilation and maintenance of HVAC systems contributes to airborne transmission of infections

[World Health Organization: COVID-19 and the social determinants of health and health equity: Evidence brief](#)
[Racial and Ethnic Disparities in COVID-19 Infections and Deaths Across U.S. Nursing Homes - PMC](#)

Access to Healthcare

SDOH	Examples of the Impact in the Community	Examples of the Impact in the Nursing Home Setting
Preventative services	<p>Limited access to vaccinations, screenings, and antibiotics increases infection risk</p> <p>Uninsured individuals lack resources for preventative care</p>	<p>Residents depend on staff for vaccinations (e.g., flu, COVID-19, pneumococcal) and infection prevention measures</p> <p>Outbreaks and other failures in these areas can result in higher infection rates</p>
Delayed care	<p>Financial or systemic barriers often lead to untreated infections, making them more severe</p> <p>Uninsured often delay seeking care and rely in on emergency services for worsening symptoms</p>	<p>Staffing shortages or limited access to on-site medical providers can delay recognizing and treating infections like urinary tract infections (UTIs) or sepsis</p>
Geographic location	<p>Urban areas have higher availability of healthcare resources</p> <p>Rural areas show lower vaccine uptake due to accessibility and vaccine hesitancy</p>	<p>Residents in lower-resourced nursing homes may have reduced access to specialists, impacting care for chronic conditions that predispose them to infections</p> <p>Rural area nursing homes have less access to vaccine partners</p>

[World Health Organization: COVID-19 and the social determinants of health and health equity: Evidence brief](#)
[Racial and Ethnic Disparities in COVID-19 Infections and Deaths Across U.S. Nursing Homes - PMC](#)

Socioeconomic Factors

SDOH	Examples of the Impact in the Community	Impact in the Nursing Home Setting
Income status	Low-income workers may lack sick leave forcing them to work while contagious, perpetuating the spread of infection	Frontline staff can often come from lower-income backgrounds Nursing homes in lower income areas often have fewer resources to invest in infection prevention, staff training and facility upgrades
Employment	Certain jobs increase exposure to infections agents (healthcare)	Understaffing and turnover can lead to insufficient infection control measures (hand hygiene, isolation protocols)
Social isolation and mental health	Trigger chronic stress responses which can suppress the immune system Depression may mask or overlap with infection symptoms (fatigue, loss of appetite) which can delay treatment	Social isolation and loneliness can worsen overall health contributing to weaker immunity Mental health struggles may lead to neglect of personal hygiene increasing infection risk Can lead to reduced mobility and poor appetite which can lead to complications (pressure injuries, poor circulation and impaired immunity)

[World Health Organization: COVID-19 and the social determinants of health and health equity: Evidence brief](#)
[Racial and Ethnic Disparities in COVID-19 Infections and Deaths Across U.S. Nursing Homes - PMC](#)

Education & Health Literacy

SDOH	Examples of the Impact in the Community	Examples of the Impact in the Nursing Home Setting
Education	Misconceptions about infections and treatments may delay effective management of illness	Inadequate education or training on infection prevention and infectious diseases may result in improper handling of infectious diseases and infectious materials
Discrimination	Marginalized populations face structural barriers to healthcare leading to worse outcomes in infectious disease management	Nursing homes that serve predominately minority populations often have higher COVID rates and worse outcomes
Health literacy	Low health literacy negatively impacts understanding of prevention (hygiene and vaccination)	Low health literacy decreases ability to understand medical conditions, plan of care, medication and discharge instructions Cognitive decline, hearing impairment and medical jargon impact understanding

[World Health Organization: COVID-19 and the social determinants of health and health equity: Evidence brief](#)
[Racial and Ethnic Disparities in COVID-19 Infections and Deaths Across U.S. Nursing Homes - PMC](#)

Health Literacy and Infection Prevention in Your Nursing Home

- **Personal health literacy** is defined as “the degree to which individuals have the ability to find, understand and use information and services to inform health-related decisions and actions for themselves and others.”
- **Organizational health literacy** is “the degree to which organizations equitably enable individuals to find, understand and use information and services to inform health-related decisions and actions for themselves and others.”



Minimum Data Set (MDS) Version 3.0

B1300. Health Literacy



Complete only if A0310B = 01 or A0310G = 1 and A0310H = 1.

B1300. Health Literacy

Complete only if A0310B = 01 or A0310G = 1 and A0310H = 1

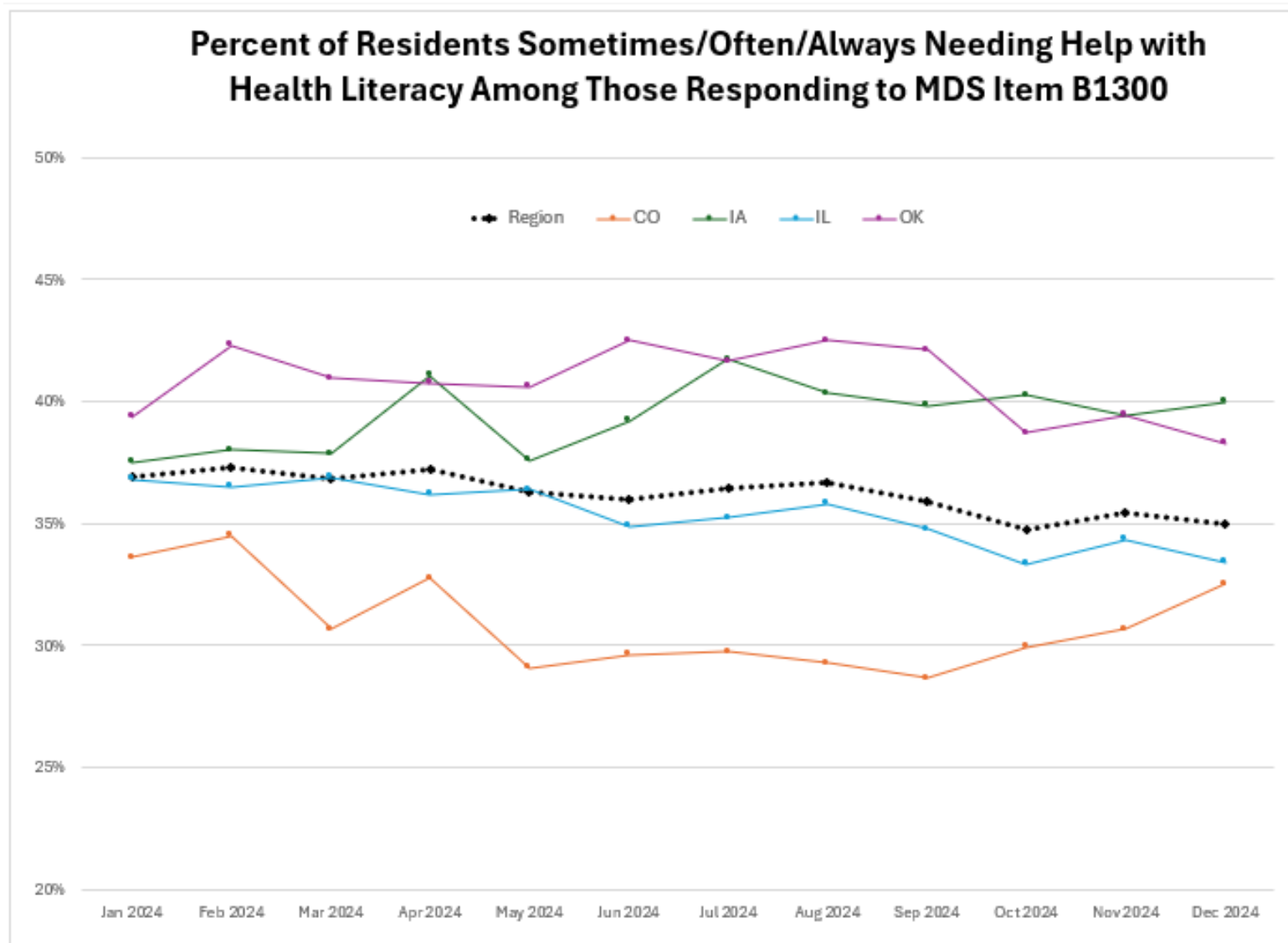
Enter Code

How often do you need to have someone help you when you read instructions, pamphlets, or other written material from your doctor or pharmacy?

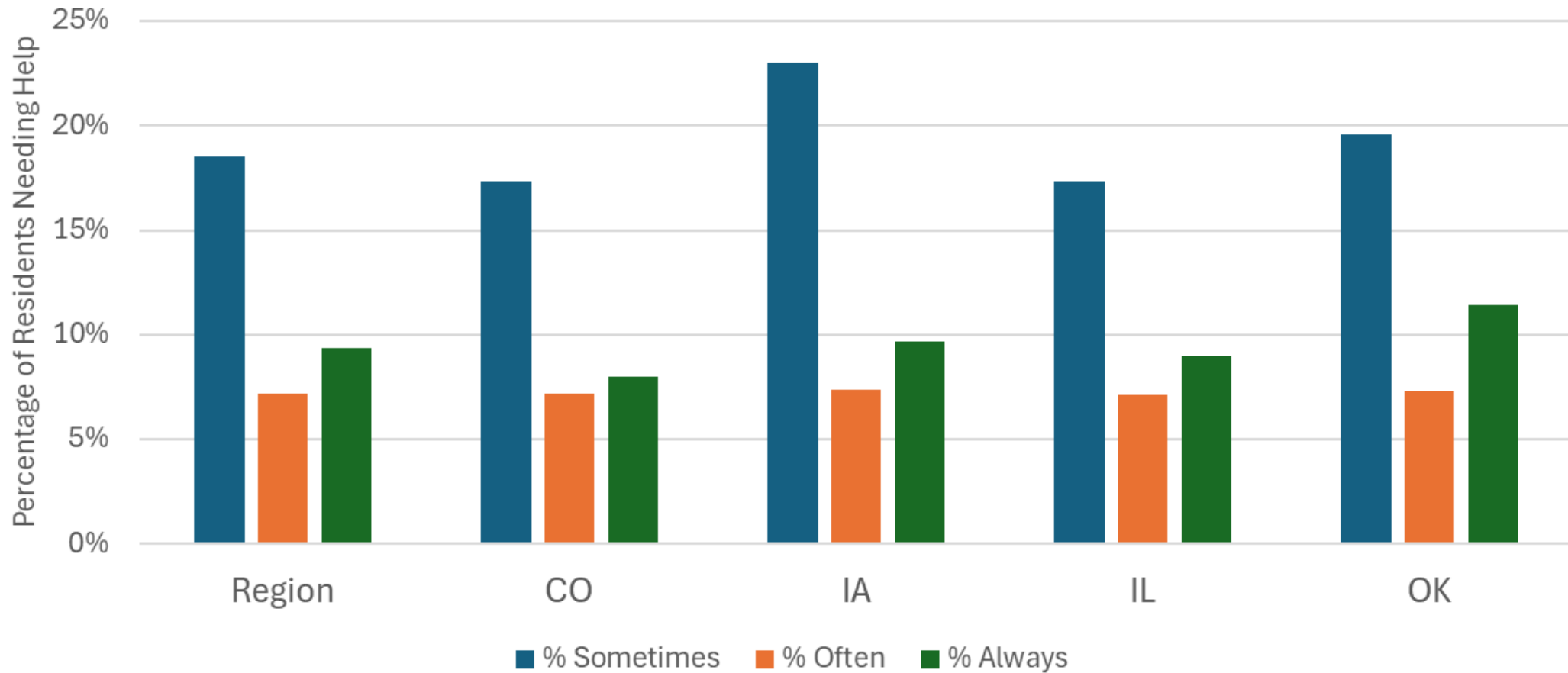
0. **Never**
1. **Rarely**
2. **Sometimes**
3. **Often**
4. **Always**
7. **Resident declines to respond**
8. **Resident unable to respond**

The Single Item Literacy Screener is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.

Percent of Residents Needing Help



Percent of Residents Sometimes/Often/Always Needing Help with Health Literacy Among Those Responding to MDS Item B1300 December 2024



Impact of Low Health Literacy

- Medication errors
- Residents struggle to understand and follow care plans
- **Less use of preventative services (e.g., vaccines)**
- Problems managing complex chronic conditions
- Increased hospital readmission and emergency department use with longer hospital stays
- Unsure about how to respond to public health emergencies
- Higher mortality

https://www.chcs.org/media/Health-Literacy-Fact-Sheets_2024.pdf



One minute to read this...



"Johnson, Mrs. questions some may you I about have vaccine COVID-19 the. The in illness, severe preventing effective highly vaccine is death hospitalization, and COVID-19 caused by. safe tested thoroughly been has and proven it to be, settings long-term care like here, especially individuals for higher risk complications the of where."

"Mrs. Johnson, I understand you may have some questions about the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine is highly effective in preventing severe illness, hospitalization and death caused by COVID-19. It has been thoroughly tested and proven to be safe, especially for individuals in long-term care settings like here, where the risk of complications is higher."

Written Communication Interventions

- **Creating effective written communication for residents:**
 - Organize information clearly
 - Use plain, clear content and language that is relevant for your residents
 - Use a simple layout and design to help reading and comprehension



Vaccine Information Statements (VIS)

Immunize.org Search Immunize.org IZ Express Shop Donate

Vaccines & VISs Clinical Resources Ask the Experts Official Guidance News & Updates About

VIS Translations

Our cooperative agreement with CDC supports Immunize.org to make available Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) translations. Providing a translation along with the current English VIS reduces barriers to important vaccination information for people whose preferred language is not English.

We add new VIS translations as they become available to us. We produce translations of all VISs in many common languages and rely on generous partner organizations for translations in additional languages. However, because we rely on donated translations for some languages, all VISs are not available in all represented languages.

For Michigan Healthcare Providers
Please access English language VISs for use within the state of Michigan provided by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Subscribe now to be notified when new VISs and translations become available.

Learn more about how to use VISs.

Choose Language: Spanish

Spanish-language VISs includes PDFs and RTFs for routinely recommended vaccine VISs

Vaccine Information Statements (VIS)

- All vaccine providers are required to give the appropriate VIS to the resident prior to administration of the vaccine
- Readability tests mark VIS sheets around a 10th grade reading level
 - Certain scientific words are hard to avoid
 - The CDC works to make VIS sheets as easy to read and understand as possible
- This does not replace verbal communication and counseling



Building Collective Responsibility in Infection Prevention (IP) and Control

- **Engaging everyone in IP**

- Promote a safety-focused team culture through collaboration, communication and huddles
- Ensure all staff work together to prevent infections and protect resident safety
- Involve residents and families in supporting a culture of resident safety and IP

**It's Not All About the Infection Preventionist!
It Takes a Team!**

<https://www.ahrq.gov/hai/quality/tools/cauti-ltc/modules/resources/guides/infection-prevent.html#section4>

<https://www.ahrq.gov/hai/quality/tools/cauti-ltc/modules/implementation/long-term-modules/module4/mod4-facguide.html>

What's Next



- QAA/QAPI Committee
 - [CMS Memo QSO-25-12-NH](#)
 - [Disparities Impact Statement](#)
 - [Facility Assessment](#)
- Track SDOH-related data in your quality improvement activities, examples:
 - MDS data
 - Vaccination rates
 - Infections
- Use data to identify disparities, create goals and improvement plan
- Involve resident council, residents and resident representatives

Resources



- Understand any barriers that exist to vaccine uptake
 - [Tips for Addressing COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy | Telligen QI Connect™](#)
 - [Vaccine Hesitancy Talking Points for Staff Education | Telligen QI Connect™](#)
 - [Severe Viral Respiratory Illness | CDC](#)
 - [Immunize.org](#)
 - Vaccine Information Statement Translations: [VIS Translations | Immunize.org](#)
- Check out Telligen’s [Adult Vaccine Toolkit](#)



> Questions?



Thank You for Attending Today's Session!

Your feedback is valuable!

Please stay on to complete a brief 5-question assessment.

Your anonymous feedback helps us improve future sessions.

An open-ended question is included for additional comments.

Thank you again for your participation!

Contact Us



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- www.telligenqiconnect.com
- Nursing Home Team | nursinghome@telligen.com



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Tuesdays & Thursdays | 11 a.m. MT / Noon CT

Don't miss out on these upcoming offerings:

Thursday, January 30, 2025

Optimizing Infection Prevention and Control: Leveraging Assessment and Audit Tools

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Resilience in Action: Nursing Home Teams Share Strategies for Sustaining Respiratory Vaccination Rates

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Navigating the Evolving Landscape of COVID-19 and Influenza in Long-Term Care: Insights from Dr. Greg Gahm

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